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Monthly Summary.

DOMESTIC.—Parliament was opened by royal commission on the 7th ultimo. The Queen's speech contained a paragraph reiterating a neutral policy in the American struggle.

Mr. Adderley has obtained a Parliamentary Committee of inquiry into the present state of the British establishments in Western Africa.

The case of the Confederate privateer *Rappahannock* has been heard and decided upon, adversely to the Crown. This vessel was originally called the *Victor*, a British gun-boat, which, being put up for sale, was purchased by an agent of the Confederate Government, and, after being partially armed, was suddenly taken across to Calais, where she hoisted Confederate colours. Mr. Rumble, Chief Inspector of Machinery at Sheerness, was a prominent agent in the sale and transfer, and also in hiring her engineers, and others; and the prosecution was directed against him for infringing the Foreign Enlistment Act, the special charge being, that whilst the ship lay in Calais harbour, and when there existed no longer any doubt of her character and purpose, he had engaged boiler-makers to go over and repair her. The prosecution urged that this shewed previous knowledge: the defence, that the Court could not take cognizance of what was done at Calais. The Judge declined to direct the Jury; and

the Jury—having already once interrupted the proceedings by intimating that their mind was made up—brought in a verdict for the defendant. The Federal agents seem to have mismanaged their case, in the manner in which they brought forward their evidence for the Crown; but, nevertheless, it is difficult to conceive how the jury could reconcile their conclusion with admitted facts. This last failure shews that the Act is a mere delusion; and its amendment is indispensable to the maintenance of a perfectly neutral position towards foreign governments.

A public meeting, in support of the objects of the *Freedmen's-Aid Society*, was held in Exeter Hall on Monday evening the 15th ultimo, Sir T. Fowell Buxton, Bart., in the chair. A brief summary of the proceedings will be found in another column.

Another meeting, also in aid of the Freedmen, was held on the 10th, in the Assembly Room of the Free-trade Hall, Manchester, on the occasion of an address from the Hon. E. L. Stanley, founded upon the impressions and information acquired by him during a recent visit to America. The meeting was fully attended, and the chair was occupied by F. Taylor, Esq. The speech of the Hon. Mr. Stanley was, from first to last, thoroughly in favour of the Federal cause, and was marked by a broad, liberal spirit. It has seldom been our pleasure to read a speech so much to the purpose, and so gratifying in every sense. A

good collection was made for the Freedmen.

The *Newcastle Courant* of the 24th ultimo contains the first of a series of letters relating to the Freedmen, written by a well-known and earnest anti-slavery friend, who chooses to sign A. H. R. We give an extract in another place.

Pir Mehemet Pasha, the negro admiral in the Turkish service, died recently at Eyoub, at the advanced age of ninety-two. The sable veteran was the father of Mehemet Pasha, commander of the troops composing the garrison of Peru.

We record, with sorrow the death of Sir John Hare. Sir John died on the 2nd ultimo, of bronchitis, at his residence, Boulogne-sur-Mer. He was born in 1784, and was the head of the firm of John Hare and Co., floor-cloth manufacturers. Sir John Hare was chiefly notable for his connection with the anti-slavery movement. In the heat of the discussions on this subject there was an election for Bristol, the candidates being Mr. James Evan Baillie, a Whig, who supported the West-Indian interest, and Mr. Edward Protheroe, a Whig, who supported emancipation. Sir John Hare took an active part on behalf of Mr. Protheroe, and barely escaped with his life at one of the party banquets at Bristol, the Baillieites making a dead set at the Protheroeites. Sir John was knighted in 1840, through the influence of Mr. F. H. F. Berkeley, M.P. for Bristol, on the presentation of a congratulatory address from the city of Bristol on Her Majesty's marriage. Sir John was a radical in politics, and an ardent Baptist in religion. He was the owner of the ship *Cambria*, which is said to have saved the crew and the passengers (including the 31st Regiment) when the *Kent*, East Indiaman, was destroyed by fire in the Bay of Biscay. Sir John was a zealous antiquarian, and his researches at the Chateau d'Hardelot, near Boulogne, had resulted in bringing many interesting relics of the past to light. He was also a most benevolent man, and his decease will be deeply felt by the poor of the neighbourhood.

RUSSIA.—The Russian Government, as a consequence of the emancipation of the peasants, has just taken measures for the diffusion of instruction among the agricultural population. An additional budget of 450,000 roubles for the year 1865 has just been decreed, so that the budget of Public Instruction now amounts to about 1,300,000 roubles. This supplementary budget provides for the founding of village schools, of eleven new gymnasia (colleges), for the purchase of books, paper, &c., for the poorer peasants, for supplementary payment to schoolmasters and professors, for the purchase of scientific instruments, for the establishment of laboratories and mu-

seums, for the re-organization of the University of Warsaw, for the foundation of a Polytechnic School, and for other schools for teaching agriculture and horticulture.

AFRICA.—The quantity of cotton that has passed the Aro gate since the opening of the road is 3574 bales; each bale is estimated to contain 130lbs. of cotton, at which rate the entire amount will be 464,620lbs. The price paid for it may be reckoned at sixpence per pound, that is, the sum received by the natives for their cotton amounts to 11,615*l*. The amount of duty paid on passing the gate is 486*l*., or about three and a half per cent. on its first cost. The carriage from Abbeokuta to Lagos, together with the labour of pressing, amounts to about 328*l*. The total sum, therefore, received by the native population on account of cotton is 12,359*l*. The whole of this sum is the price of labour (except the sum paid for duty): land costs nothing. The cost of raising cotton is the value of the labour bestowed on it. The stock of cotton in the hands of the natives is by no means exhausted, and we are now on the eve of gathering another crop: there is a prospect that the yield will be good.

The sum 12,359*l*. would be over the value of 1000 slaves caught in war: 2000 Dahomians would be scarcely worth that amount.—*Iwe Irohin*.

Spain.—In the Senate of the Spanish Cortes, Senator Passada Herrera addressed the House on the propriety of abolishing the slave-trade, and considering the question of emancipation. He was answered by the Minister of Marine. In another column will be found a summary of their speeches.

UNITED STATES.—*The War.*—Since the capture of Fort Fisher, on the 15th January, by the forces under Admiral Porter, after the failure of General Butler's attack, the Confederates had taken measures to abandon Wilmington, which may be regarded as virtually in Federal hands. Sherman had left Savannah, and moved his columns into South Carolina, demonstrating against more than one point, though no doubt could exist that his aim is Charleston, from which place a part of his army was distant only two miles, at the date of the last advices. He had then flanked Branchville, cut off railway communication with that city, and landed a portion of his forces on James Island, within cannon-shot of Charleston, while another portion was operating in the rear.

Grant had made another move in advance, and had secured Hatcher's Run, after a severe engagement with the Confederates. He had strengthened his new position by fortifying it, and had gained about

four or five miles of ground. The Union troops lost from 1100 to 1200 men, inflicting a corresponding loss upon their opponents, who had two generals—Pegram and Sorrel—killed. Grant's new position is admitted to be very strong, and he is gradually strangling Lee's.

Congressional.—The Vice-President has officially informed the Federal Congress that Lincoln and Johnson have been elected for four years. 213 electoral votes were cast for Lincoln and Johnson, and 21 for M'Clellan and Pendleton.

A joint resolution, submitting to the decision of the State legislatures the constitutional amendment abolishing Slavery throughout the United States, had passed the House of Representatives, amid much enthusiasm, by 119 ayes to 56 noes.

Resolutions have been introduced in the Washington Senate to the effect that no negotiation, concession, or compromise, can be entered into with rebels until they manifest unconditional submission to Federal authority. War must continue until their submission is secured, and the constitution established over the whole of the United-States territory.

Mr. Wilson, of Massachusetts, had introduced the following Bill, and it was ordered to be printed:

"Be it enacted &c., That no person shall be excluded from travel on any railroad or navigable water of the United States on account of colour, or by reason of any State law or municipal ordinance, or of any rule or regulation of any corporation, company, or person whatever; and coloured passengers shall be subject and amenable to the same laws, ordinances, rules, regulations, and usages as are white passengers; and any corporation, company, or person offending against the provisions of this Act shall, upon conviction in any court of the United States, be punished by a fine not less than 500 dollars, or by imprisonment not less than six months; provided that nothing herein contained shall interfere with any executive order of the States."

Mr. Cox, of Ohio, a peace democrat, had offered a resolution in the House of Representatives, declaring that the President was entitled to the gratitude of the country for endeavouring to ascertain the disposition of the insurgents, with a view to negotiation for peace, and the restoration of the Union.

The President is requested to omit no honourable exertion hereafter which may lead to peace and union.

A motion to table the resolution was defeated.

Mr. Fernando Wood's resolution, declaring it to be the duty of the President to maintain the Union, had passed the House of Representatives.

Mr. Sumner had proposed the following resolutions in the Senate:

"Resolved, that all acts of the executive and legislature, in pursuance of the constitution, and of treaties made under the United-States authority, are valid throughout the United States, although certain rebel States fail to participate therein. That the same rule is equally applicable to a constitutional amendment. Resolved, that the constitutional amendment abolishing Slavery will be valid, as part of the constitution, whenever ratified by three-fourths of the States *de facto*, exercising the powers and prerogatives of the United States under the constitution. Resolved, that any other rule requiring the participation of the rebel States, while illogical and unreasonable, is dangerous in its consequences, inasmuch as all recent proclamations, including the emancipation proclamations, all recent treaties, including the treaty with England for the extinction of the slave-trade, and all recent Acts of Congress, including those creating the national debt, have been made and ratified without the participation of the rebel States. Any other rule must tend to postpone the great day when the prohibition of Slavery will be valid as part of the United States constitution; but the rule here declared will ensure the immediate ratification of constitutional amendments."

Miscellaneous.—The Hon. Edward Everett, some time United-States' Minister at the Court of St. James', died suddenly of apoplexy on the 15th Jan. ult., at his residence in Boston (Mass.). Mr. Everett's maiden speech in Congress was an apology for Slavery, on which occasion he was answered, in terms of withering scorn, by Mr. Randolph. When the slaveholders' rebellion broke out, however, he redeemed his early error by an uncompromising adherence to the cause of liberty, and his decease is deeply deplored. His funeral took place on the 19th.

On the 19th of Jan. last, the Hon. Morrow B. Lowry, of Erie, brought forward a Bill in the Senate of Pennsylvania, prohibiting the exclusion of coloured people from railway cars. A large public meeting had been held in Philadelphia upon the same subject, on the 13th, when a series of resolutions condemning the practice was unanimously adopted, and a Committee of twenty-one of the most influential citizens was appointed to present the same to the directors of the railway companies.

The first decision of Chief Justice Chase, in the Supreme Court of the United States, was, that West Virginia is legally a State.

The Missouri Legislature has passed a Bill authorizing the Board of Public Schools to provide for the education of

coloured children of St. Louis, the old law forbidding the same.

A Bill has been introduced in the Legislature of Indiana to repeal the "Black Laws" of that State. A motion for its indefinite postponement having failed—ayes 35, nays 50—we have strong hopes that it will become a law.

The correspondent of the *Washington Herald* says that General Goicuria has presented to the President a copy of a letter received by him from Cuba, detailing the progress of the anti-slavery feeling in that island. It is stated that the native Cubans are nearly unanimous in favour of gradual emancipation, while the Spaniards and slave-traders are opposed to it. The question is causing considerable agitation and excitement in the island, but the abolition sentiment is steadily gaining ground.

There is now published in Philadelphia a little journal called the *Freedman's Friend*. It consists chiefly of reports from the agents and correspondents of the *Freedmen's Aid Society*.

The State Legislatures at present in session were losing no time in adopting the amendment to the constitution emancipating the slaves. It had been ratified by the fifteen following States: Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Maine, New York, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Ohio, Maryland, Michigan, Illinois, Missouri, Minnesota, Kansas, and Indiana. The only State that has thus far rejected the amendment is Delaware. The following States have not yet given their legislative vote on the amendment: Arkansas, Connecticut, California, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Nevada, Oregon, Tennessee, Vermont, and Wisconsin. The number of States necessary to ratify the amendment is twenty-seven. It is generally believed that the amendment will be adopted by the necessary three-fourths vote of the legislatures of all the States.

The Indiana Senate has also ratified the constitutional amendment.

The Governor of Kentucky had sent a message to the legislature recommending the ratification of the constitutional amendment, but thinks the Government should pay Kentucky 34,000,000 dollars, the value of the slaves in that State.

The Illinois Legislature has abolished the Black Laws preventing the immigration of negroes into Illinois.

The Metropolitan Railway Company of the district of Columbia having had occasion to apply to Congress for an amending Act, the Senate, on the motion of Mr. Sumner, has introduced a clause prohibiting on every railroad in the district exclusion from any car on account of colour. Mr. Wilson (Massachusetts) has brought in a Bill applying the prohibition to all

railroads, ships, and boats within the jurisdiction of the United States.

A coloured lawyer has been admitted to the bar of the Supreme Court.

A meeting of an informal character had taken place off Fortress Monroe, on the 4th ult., between Mr. Lincoln and Mr. Seaward, and Mr. Hunter, Mr. Campbell, and Mr. Stephens, the latter on the side of the Confederates, to discuss the probabilities of peace. The meeting originated in a visit, under permission, of Mr. Blair's to Richmond, on which occasion he received the assurance of the President's readiness to hear what any Confederate agent might have to say upon the question of peace. The meeting took place on board a Federal vessel, but as Mr. Lincoln remained firm on the two vital points of submission to the Federal authority, and re-union without Slavery, and the Confederate commissioners were equally resolved in stipulating for recognition and freedom of action, nothing resulted from the interview.

The *Anti-Slavery Standard* says: "In Brazil there are about 3,000,000 slaves, but their bondage has many alleviations which Southern slaves have not. The Parliament entertains the plan of emancipating the whole body of them at a period not far distant. Under the reign of the present Emperor, the slaves have decreased 1,000,000, while the products of the soil have increased 35 per cent. These facts and figures shew the progress of events in that quarter of the world."

Rebeldom.—Notwithstanding it is understood that Jefferson Davis is favourable to arming the slaves, the efforts made in the Confederate Congress to obtain a Bill for this purpose have been defeated by large majorities. The plea urged is, that to arm the slaves would be to strike a fatal blow at Slavery.

President Davis has appointed Lee commander-in-chief, and the Senate has confirmed the appointment.

THE FREEDMEN'S COLUMN.

WE propose giving up, every month, a portion of our space, for the publication, under the above heading, of scraps of interesting information relating to the Freedmen, collated from reliable sources. We shall be glad if friends, who are in direct communication with Freedmen's Societies in the United States, will forward us suitable items for our "Freedmen's Column."

(From A. H. R.—'s Letter in the "Newcastle Courant," 24th February 1865.)

"A minister of the Gospel, who has recently returned from visiting the Freedmen's Schools in Virginia and South Carolina, remarks, December 15, 1864: Having for many years past, at the West and elsewhere, studied the capabilities

and prospects of the coloured race, I was prepared to witness much among the freedmen that might encourage my faith in their sure and speedy elevation. So far from being disappointed in this respect, every day's experience and observation on the ground has deepened my conviction of the worth of the African race in our country, and of the exceeding hopefulness of the prospect now opening before it. When I speak of the worth of this race, I do not, of course, refer to the divinely-established fact that

'All men are equal in their birth;
Heirs of the earth and sky;'

but comparatively, this race seems to me of great worth industriously, and in regard to those qualities of mind and heart which are yet to make it an element of strength and beauty in the new nation whose walls are being 'built in troublous times.' No prophecy of ill-omen has been more persistently uttered in this country, for a third of a century, than that of the idleness of the slaves should they be immediately emancipated.

"Now, many hundreds of thousands have been thus emancipated,—amidst war-scenes, too, which are always unfavourable to improvement,—and with what industrial result? Will the freed people work? The thousands of little cabins, with well-cultivated patches around them, that have suddenly appeared on fields utterly desolated by the march and conflict of armies, and the eagerness with which they are everywhere employed by individuals as well as by the Government, are a sufficient answer. All that I had accepted on testimony has been abundantly confirmed by the closest observations I have been able to make.

"I have lived in log-cabins, and roughed it in frontier settlements, but I never saw industry so patient, or courage in the building of houses so indomitable among white men, as I have everywhere witnessed in the freedmen. Mingo Obman, at the age of fifty-two, escaped from Slavery in May 1863, and came to Roanoke Island. He had one dime and 'two red cents' to begin life with. Afterwards his wife escaped—as poor and ragged as himself—and joined him on the island. They are now living in a neat cabin, built by his own hand, and, in answer to my inquiry, he told me that his wife as well as himself was well clothed; that they had plenty of provisions for themselves and to give a meal to anybody who was hungry, and would accept it; that he had a hundred dollars in cash, besides two hundred and fifty due from the Government, which, he drily remarked, 'he could afford to lose if Uncle Sam needed it more than he did.' I asked him if he had children. 'One,' who, with her husband, had escaped from Slavery, and was living in Newbern; 'and she is doing better than I am,' he added. This is industry. Call this an exception if you please, but it shews what a black man can do, and as we judge of ourselves by the best specimens among us, so should we estimate the black race. I asked Obman, by the way, if he would give a meal to a hungry rebel as soon as to others. 'Yes,' he slowly answered, 'but I should want him to leave mighty quick after he'd got his victuals.' 'You are doing nicely,' said a teacher in Norfolk the other day to a boy

of twenty, recently escaped from near Charleston, S.C. 'Mrs. W——,' he answered, his perfectly black features all aglow, 'I's gloriously in earnest.' It was fitly said, not for himself alone, but for his race, who with him are treading the new path of knowledge. To say that our schools have been successful, is the least that can be said in regard to them. We have many, many schools, visiting any one of which the friends of the Association would feel that if nothing had been accomplished anywhere else, that single school would seal the wisdom of the great work of lifting a nation into knowledge and life."

(From "Friends' Review," 4th February 1865.)

Extract of a Letter from a lady who is teaching the Freedmen at Nashville, Tenn.:

"The need of an orphanage here is so great that I could not avoid giving it a great deal of thought.

"The coloured people of the camp and vicinity have nearly all come from points farther South, and are unused to the severe cold of Nashville, and to the miseries and privations incident to their transition state, and they die in great numbers, leaving children of various ages, with no friends but the teachers and coloured people. Last week I commenced school at the camp, and went from tent to tent to inform the children that it was ready for them.

"I came upon one boy, perhaps twelve years old, standing up to his ankles in the mud that pervades every nook and corner of the camp during wet weather: he was trembling with cold, and seemed so chilled and so sick withal that he could hardly answer my questions. Upon asking why he was standing there, he told me there was no room for him at the fire where he had been staying. At my request he shewed me his tent, and I made him return to it, which he did with difficulty on account of weakness.

"In his tent I found eight more small boys living there by themselves, huddled around a fire only large enough to warm their hands, and fill their miserable abode with smoke. They had no parents, and they came from different parts of the country: four of them were sick with diseases arising from exposure. It was a truly affecting sight. Two of them were bright-looking and cheerful; they told me they would come to school as early as possible in the morning, but they had to 'tote wood' and draw rations for the others, and it took some time. One of them, a small boy, was well, but had not clothing fitting even for a coloured boy to wear outside the tent. It is scarcely possible to imagine any thing more desolate and forsaken than they were.

"Night before last four such children died in one tent: to-day I counted twenty orphans in my school. We think there are about 150 in the circle of our visits. The coloured people, to my great surprise, shew a most beautiful charity to these poor children. However large their own family, they never refuse to take charge of an orphan, even though starvation may be staring them in the face. I visited a hut in the city a few days ago, where a coloured woman lived, with seven of her own family, the youngest an infant. She had two orphan chil-

dren of deceased kindred. The woman supported them all. She said, 'I scratches round, missis, and washes, and one way and nother gets de br-ad to keep de bref of life in dese yere childrens, and so long as I can do it I won't turn dem ar orphans out.' William Mitchell has secured a house, one storey high, for an orphanage: by close crowding, it will shelter seventy children. The temptation is strong, in view of the urgent need, to work one's self to death. We look for warm weather more anxiously than we can express. The tents are poor protection from the weather when the mercury is little above zero, and the damp ground, which is their only floor, offers but cold comfort to people accustomed to an almost tropical sun. Ninety-one coffins have been required in the camp during eight days. I am so anxious to get the orphans by themselves, that I intend setting my girls in school to making bed-ticks for them, and we can furnish blankets, thanks to the friends of Philadelphia.

(From the Correspondence of the New-York Tribune.)

"New Orleans, Jan. 20.

"The planters in this State, who have been such all their lives, and those extemporized out of Northern men who have come here to make money, seem to feel quite encouraged, in spite of the universal failure of last year. I have conversed with quite a number who have been involved in debt by the failure alluded to, who think they will, the coming season, make up for the past, and have their hopes realized by an abundant yield. One thing is certain, the great objection which was urged against the free-labour system, that the negroes would not work except by coercion, has been exploded. I am in almost daily communication with old and life-long planters—men of Southern birth and associations—who tell me that they have, to their surprise, found the labourers contented and obedient, and in many cases, the interest in the crop raised has exerted to cheerful work many who, under the coercive rule, were worthless except under compulsion. It must also be remembered that the negroes who worked on our Louisiana plantations the last year, were paid a stipend in clothes and provisions, and were to be further rewarded by a certain percentage upon the amount realized by the exported crop. Now, these emancipated men understand their bargain with their employers perfectly, and the hope of a liberal reward made quick hands, and called forth many songs. The poor people were hopeful to a degree. They saw all their bright prospects blasted by the worm and the frost; they felt that the elements were against them. *Disappointed they have not complained*, but bear up under their losses with patience, and are ready to begin again, relying upon their strong arms and newly-acquired freedom under the blessing of Providence, yet to succeed."

(From General Butler's speech at Lowell.)

"Upon reaching Fortress Monroe (Nov. 1863), and looking about to see what duties devolved upon me, I found the ein, in the first place demanding immediate attention, 80,000 freedmen,

women and children, who had escaped from Slavery, and thrown themselves as wards upon the guardianship of the United States. There was no departmental organization for their care, maintenance, protection, and education. My first duty, then, upon assuming command, in the absence of active military operations, seemed to be toward the helpless beings thus cast upon our hands. I knew what you would have said ought to be done under the circumstances, and I did as I thought you would have done. I established system, order and organization of labour, so that the freedman who would work could work, and those who would not work might find means whereby they should work, and so that every freedman, woman, and child should have what, thank God, we always have had in Massachusetts for all, food and raiment and protection from the inclemency of the weather. Aided by your fellow-citizens, Captain Wilder, Captain Brown, and Captain James, I applied myself to this work, and presently order and industry arose out of the chaos in the affairs of the freedmen in North Carolina and Virginia. The organization of those affairs was carried on still further under the charge of Lieut.-Col. Kineman, and has since been continued under the superintendence of your townsman, Major Carney. We have, as the result of one year's work in that department, 5000 men brought into the army of the United States without bounty, and how many more with bounty I do not know, because they were credited to the several States in whose regiments they enlisted, and not to the United States. By the labours of this year we have demonstrated that the former slave population of the South can be self-supporting, even without a large proportion of the able-bodied men. We have saved from the Government rations alone, which were to be dealt out to them, 100,000 dollars, and all this in two districts; having made the large losses in the negro affairs of North Carolina, because of the disturbance of labour from the yellow fever, the fall of Plymouth, and the evacuation of Washington, in April last, by the order of the Lieutenant-General. Within the same space of time we have succeeded in demonstrating that these negroes are capable of being educated. Aided by the self-sacrificing labours of benevolent teachers from the North, hundreds and thousands of children have there been taught to read, and adults, too, who never read before, and thus the negro is being fitted for that new state of liberty and citizenship to which he has been raised. Such are some of the results of this war."

(From the "American Missionary," January, 1865.)

"Colonel Eaton, General Superintendent of Freedmen for the Department of the Tennessee and the State of Arkansas, makes the following interesting report:

"This supervision, embracing the territory within the lines of our army, from Cairo down the Mississippi to the Red River, together with the State of Arkansas, numbered in its care during the past year, 113,650 freedmen. These are now disposed of as follows: In military service, as soldiers, laundresses, cooks, officers' ser-

vants, and labourers in the various staff departments, 41,150; in cities, on plantations, and in freedmen's villages and cared for, 72,500.

"Of these, 62,300 are entirely self-supporting, as planters, mechanics, barbers, hackmen, draymen, &c., conducting enterprises on their own responsibility, or as hired labourers. The remaining 10,200 receive subsistence from the Government; 3000 of them are members of families whose heads are carrying on plantations, and have under cultivation 4000 acres of cotton, and are to pay the Government for their subsistence from the first income of the crop.

"The other 7200 includes the paupers (those over and under the self-supporting age, the crippled and sick in hospital), of the 113,650, and those engaged in their care; and instead of being unproductive, have now under cultivation 500 acres of corn, 700 acres of vegetables, and 1500 acres of cotton—besides the work done at wood-chopping, &c.

"There are reported in the aggregate something over 100,000 acres of cotton under cultivation. Of these, about 7000 acres are leased and cultivated by blacks. Some of these are managing as high as 300 or 400 acres. It is impossible to give, at the present date, any definite statement of many of the forms of industry: 59,000 cords of wood are reported to me by Colonel Thomas, Superintendent and Provost-Marshal of freedmen, as cut within the line of 110 miles on the river banks above and below Vicksburg.

"It would be a guess to state the entire amount cut by the people under this supervision: it must be enormous. The people have been paid from fifty cents to two dollars and fifty cents per cord for cutting. This wood has been essential to the commercial and military operations on the river.

"Of the 113,650 blacks above mentioned, 13,320 have been under instruction in letters: about 4000 have learned to read quite fairly, and about 2000 to write."

(Extract from the Report of A. P. Ketchum, Registrar, to Brigadier-General R. Saxton, Military Governor, Beaufort, S.C., April 30, 1864.

"It is a gratifying fact, that where the freedman is established upon a farm of his own he succeeds; that he is happier and more ambitious when permitted to be independent than when retained as a mere labourer for the white man, and subject to his will."

PUBLIC MEETING FOR THE FREEDMEN.

A PUBLIC meeting, in support of the objects of the *Freedmen's-Aid Society* was held in Exeter Hall on the 15th ult., in the evening. There was a large attendance, and the proceedings were of a peculiarly enthusiastic and unanimous character. The following gentlemen were among those present: Sir T. Fowell Buxton, Bart.; the Rev. Dr. Haynes, President of the National Freedmen's-Relief Association, and Mr.

Levi Coffin, the representative of the Freedmen's-Aid Commission of Cincinnati; Mr. W. E. Forster, M.P.; the Rev. Dr. Massie, the Rev. J. H. Hinton, M.A.; the Rev. James Davis, Secretary of the Evangelical Alliance; the Rev. Samuel Garrett, B.A.; the Rev. Henry Richard; the Rev. Newman Hall, LL.B.; the Rev. James H. Wilson; Mr. M. D. Conway, of Virginia; Mr. J. Bevan Braithwaite; Mr. J. Morgan, of Birmingham; Mr. William Allen, Mr. Stafford Allen, the Rev. Crammond Kennedy, late U. S. Army Chaplain; Mr. F. W. Chesson, and Mr. R. Alsop.

Sir T. F. BUXTON was called to the chair.

We regret our inability, owing to a want of space, to give a report of the proceedings. It was most gratifying to the friends of the anti-slavery cause to see the young Baronet, who bears so proud a name, coming forward, as his late grandfather did, now years ago, to advocate the cause of the oppressed and down-trodden negro; and heartily was he cheered on assuming the presidency and in the course of his brief but telling opening address. He was followed by the Rev. Dr. Massie, who read letters of apology for absence from the Rev. W. L. Thornton, President of the Wesleyan Conference, who was confined to his room by a sharp attack of illness; the Hon. and Rev. Baptist Noel, M.A., who had another engagement impossible for him to neglect, Thomas Bazley, Esq., M.P.; W. E. Baxter Esq., M.P., who was unable to leave Dundee this week; Charles Buxton, Esq., M.P.; and the Rev. W. Arthur. The letters of the Rev. W. L. Thornton and Rev. Baptist Noel contained expressions of warm sympathy for the objects of the Society, and their reading was received with loud cheers.

Dr. MASSIE then proceeded to read a statement of the proceedings which had previously taken place in connection with this Society. This statement was as follows:

"Friends of the slave had organized a Freedmen's-Aid Association for London more than two years ago, and transmitted their contributions in various sums to Societies operating from Eastern States of the American Union. The Revs. Samuel Garrett, B.A., and John Curwen were the Secretaries of that Association. The yearly meeting of the Society of Friends had also exerted an influence in the same direction, and forwarded repeatedly remittances in aid of Freedmen's Associations. But in the month of June (28th) 1864, Levi Coffin, delegated from the Freedmen's-Aid Commission of Cincinnati, was invited to a meeting of friends of the slave at Dr. Hodgkin's, Bedford Square, and a few days afterwards to a similar conference at the house of Samuel Gurney, Esq., M.P. A resolution was adopted, based on the statements of Mr. Coffin, concerning the necessities of slaves escaped from the plantations, to form a Committee which would

raise funds for their relief. Dr. F. Tomkins and F. W. Chesson consented to act as Secretaries, and Samuel Gurney, Esq., M.P., and William Allen, Esq., accepted the offices of Treasurer and Sub-treasurer of the fund. A meeting was convened July 13th at the Friends' Meeting House, Bishopsgate Street—the Rev. Dr. Massie in the chair. The Rev. John Curwen stated that he believed a union of the two Committees might be advantageously effected. In this others concurred, and it was unanimously resolved, that as Sir T. Fowell Buxton, Bart., had consented to become President, the two Associations should unite as one, and the Committees of the two act as joint Committee of the amalgamated Association. The Secretaries of the several Committees agreed to co-operate. The Rev. Samuel Garrett, B.A., Rev. John Curwen, F. W. Chesson, Esq., and Dr. F. Tomkins, were nominated Hon. Secretaries. Circulars and appeals were issued, and contributions solicited. Responses were given, indicating much sympathy on behalf of the suffering people, sums varying from 131l. 5s., 100l. 50l. 30l. 25l., 20 guineas, 10l., 5l., 1l., 10s., and to half-a-crown, were received, and more than 2000l. have been contributed. Deputations have attended meetings in Birmingham, Bradford, Dublin, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Kendal, Leicester, Manchester, Newcastle, Sheffield, Rochester, and numerous other places, from which collections and subscriptions have been received. Remittances have been made of clothing, goods and money to Cincinnati and New York, as promptly as sufficient sums for the purpose were collected. Advertisements, tracts, and pamphlets, 'A Voice from Vicksburg,' 'A Plea for the Perishing,' and 'Emancipated Slaves; Two Millions of Freedmen in America,' have been published. The last contains information as recent as the 9th of January 1865. At a meeting of the Committee, held 18th January, the Rev. Dr. Haynes and his son, the Rev. L. M. S. Haynes, were received as delegated from the New-York National Freedmen's Relief Association; and after conference the Committee agreed to record that they welcomed the delegates from the National Freedmen's Relief Association of New York, and accepted the co-operation of the gentlemen in promoting the cause of the freedmen, and would render them any seasonable assistance in testimony of our sympathy and approval of the mission on which they have visited this country. The present meeting is held to make known to the community generally the objects and aims of the Freedmen's Committee, and to introduce the gentlemen delegated from the Freedmen's Associations in America. Levi Coffin appears as deputed by the Western Freedmen's-Aid Commission, and the Rev. Dr. Haynes as delegated from the National Freedmen's-Relief Association of New York. Their credentials have been found entirely satisfactory, and they are severally esteemed worthy of all confidence."

Levi Coffin, delegate of the Western Freedmen's-Aid Society, then submitted the case of the fugitive freedmen; but the following is a mere outline of his statement:

"He wished it to be distinctly understood that his mission was simply one of Christian philanthropy, and had nothing whatever to do with the political bearings of either the side of the North or South. As a member of the Society of Friends he could have as little sympathy with war as he could have with Slavery. In travelling over this country he found a misconception existed in many persons' minds with regard to the number and location of these poor refugees. The impression seemed to be that they had come to the North, and were scattered about the Free States. This was an incorrect view. The freed slaves were principally gathered in the Federal lines in the seceded States. As both armies had swept over the country, nothing was left for the poor negro. They therefore came in the deepest distress; in fact, many of them were in such a state of destitution that it beggared description. They came in by thousands and tens of thousands, until the number was now swelled to two millions. Two years ago last autumn this work commenced west of the mountains; in the east it commenced earlier. As the Federal army advanced down the Mississippi, thousands came within the lines, many of them almost in a state of nudity. He heard of their condition, and paid a visit to that part of the country, and he found the destitution greater than he had anticipated. On his return the Western Freedmen's-Aid Society was organized at Cincinnati, and measures were taken at once to relieve the poor refugees with articles of clothing, &c. Great exertions were made, but the means at their disposal were nothing to the wants of the people. The following year he paid a second visit, and found that the work had largely increased. On his return more extensive efforts were put forth, but thousands perished for lack of the means of helping them. In all his travels he had never met with a single case where there was a wish to return to Slavery. They looked upon their deliverance as the intervention of a special Providence. He found them to be patient in suffering, disposed to die rather than return to their former condition. Schools had been organized in the camps and colonies, and great progress had been made by those who had attended these schools. Tools were put into the hands of those able to work, in order to make them self-supporting. In one district of the Mississippi, where there were 113,650 registered during the past year, they had had 74,981 acres under cultivation in cotton, besides their potatoes and other vegetables. Out of the number of slaves he had mentioned there had been over 13,000 under instruction. Above 4000 had learned to read fairly, over 2000 to write, and many were supporting themselves by working; but there were so many aged, crippled, and orphan children, that a considerable time must elapse ere they could relax their efforts. Most of the slaves shewed great willingness to work, and this was an encouraging fact. Mr. Coffin having urged these points upon the meeting, said he must refrain from proceeding further, as his voice was failing him, and he then resumed his seat amidst loud applause.

The Rev. Dr. MASSIE bore testimony to the great amount of good that Mr. Levi

Coffin had accomplished. He said the slave-planters had got to call him the "Underground Railway." For thirty-three years he received into his house more than 100 fugitive slaves every year. These slaves he housed, clothed, and, when sick, attended them, and, when they died, buried them.

The Rev. H. HAINES, another delegate from the United States, next addressed the assembly, and was followed by W. E. FORSTER, Esq., M.P., who, in the course of an admirable speech, most forcibly presented the case of the Federal Government against the Confederates, and concluded by moving the following resolution :

"That this meeting approves of the object of the Freedmen's-Aid Associations in America, which, while ministering immediate temporal relief, seek to give such aid, physical and educational, and to apply such moral and religious culture as shall, under the Divine blessing, enable the once down-trodden and degraded slave to act for himself and to give evidence of his capacity for the blessings of freedom and equality in the eye of the law."

The Rev. NEWMAN HALL seconded the resolution in his usual able manner; after which Mr. F. W. CHESSEON moved the following one :

"That this meeting cordially commends the delegates from the Cincinnati and New-York Freedmen's Association, Mr. Levi Coffin and Dr. Haynes, to the liberal consideration of all friends of the slave in Great Britain, by contributions in money and clothes, or other means of relief, for the support and improvement of the freedmen within the United States of America."

Mr. MORGAN, who is connected with the Freedmen's-Aid Society at Birmingham, seconded the resolution. He stated that that Society had commenced operations in May last, and that the value of their contributions in money and clothing already amounted to 3000*l*.

The resolution was carried with acclamation.

The Rev. Mr. CURWEN moved, and the Rev. Dr. MASSIE seconded, a vote of thanks to the chairman, which, having been gracefully acknowledged, the proceedings terminated.

During the delivery of the addresses attempts were made by Southern sympathizers to interrupt the business of the evening, but they were at once suppressed.

PRESIDENT LINCOLN AND MRS. E. P. GURNEY.

THE Philadelphia *Press* says the following letter from President Lincoln was written by the President, prior to his reelection, to Mrs. Eliza P. Gurney, the widow of the late well-known Friend and philanthropist, Joseph John Gurney. Mrs.

Gurney is an American lady, and, since her husband's death, has resided at Burlington, New Jersey :

"MY ESTEEMED FRIEND,—I have not forgotten, probably never shall forget, the very impressive occasion when yourself and friends visited me on a Sabbath forenoon two years ago. Nor had your kind letter, written nearly a year later, ever been forgotten. In all it has been your purpose to strengthen my reliance in God. I am much indebted to the good Christian people of the country for their constant prayers and consolations, and to no one of them more than to yourself. The purposes of the Almighty are perfect, and must prevail, though we erring mortals may fail to accurately perceive them in advance. We hoped for a happy termination of this terrible war long before this, but God knows best, and has ruled otherwise. We shall yet acknowledge his wisdom and our own errors therein; meanwhile we must work earnestly in the best lights He gives us, trusting that so working still conduces to the great ends He ordains. Surely He intends some great good to follow this mighty convulsion, which no mortal could make, and no mortal could stay."

"Your people—the Friends—have had, and are having, very great trials, on principles and faith opposed to war and oppression. They can only practically oppose oppression by war. In this hard dilemma, some have chosen one horn and some the other.

"For those appealing to me on conscientious grounds, I have done and shall do the best I could and can in my own conscience under my oath to the law. That you believe this, I doubt not, and, believing it, I shall still receive for our country and myself your earnest prayers to our Father in heaven.

"Your sincere friend,

"A. LINCOLN."

DEPUTATION OF FREEDMEN'S-AID ASSOCIATION FROM AMERICA.

THE following is from the January number of *The Friend* :

"(To the Editor of *The Friend*.)

"I hope I may be just in time to procure the insertion of the subjoined extracts from a letter addressed to our Committee, advising the intended departure of a deputation from the *National Freedmen's-Relief Association* in New York; and also to announce that Dr. Haynes and his son arrived in Liverpool by the *China*, and are expected here, stopping on their way to London, on the 30th instant.

"We hope our numerous friends will at once earnestly consider how they can promote the mission of the deputation, and make way for their public advocacy of the freedmen's cause, and that such advocacy will make its way into a good many of the county and chief towns of the kingdom, and wherever the friends of the negro race will make them an opening.

"Communications on this subject requested

to P. and H. Cadbury, Secretaries, 29 George Street, Edgbaston, Birmingham; or to Dr. Tomkins, Tanfield Court, Inner Temple, London.

"Extract from a letter from the Hon. C. C. Leigh, Chairman of the 'National Freedmen's Relief Association, New York.

"We are in receipt of your welcome letter. I am most happy to see the hand of God in your communication and contribution to the cause of the freedmen.

"First, as to the goods you have shipped. They will be most welcome; for no tongue can tell how needy the poor freedmen are. I am happy to inform you that the goods passed free of duty, and are now in our rooms. I will write you shortly in full as to their adaptation and value to the Association. With regard to your inquiry, 'whether goods well-bought, of well-selected descriptions, freight and duty free, may be even better than remittances of money,' I reply that it would undoubtedly be so, and we would by all means advise to have the money converted into such merchandise. I am sure, from your inquiries, that you will be glad to find we have arranged to send a deputation to England. The Rev. D. C. Haynes, D.D., has consented to proceed at once to Great Britain to confer with our friends, and do what can be done in harmony with them for the cause. He has been efficiently connected with us from the commencement as a Secretary, has been South and seen the suffering of these coloured people, and fully understands the whole question. He can give you answers to all your queries. He sailed on the 14th instant in the Cunard steamer *China*, and will see you as soon as possible on his arrival. He will have the best possible credentials from the Association, and other parties of distinction. He will take with him his son, a young preacher of popular talent, pastor of a Christian church, who will give him leave of absence for six months for the purpose.

"We have received already, besides the donation of your Association, several valuable remittances from Great Britain, and are sure there is always work for us to do. It will give us great pleasure to supply you with information about the *National Freedmen's Relief Association*, which is purely charitable, unsectarian, and unpartisan. Our Treasurer is Joseph B. Collins, President of the United States Life Insurance Company, No. 40 Wall Street, New York. He is a member of the Society of Friends, and all denominations are represented in our members and employees. William Cullen Bryant, the poet, and William Allen Butler, the author of the admirable satire, *Nothing to Wear*, are on the Committee of the *National Freedmen's Association*."

On the subject of the Freedmen the *Liberator* of the 30th December last has the following excellent editorial:

THE CAUSE OF THE FREEDMEN.

"The abolition of Slavery in this country is the release of a population as large as that of all

New England from a tyranny which crushed all the rights and claims of human nature at a blow; which left to its victims nothing but the capacity to suffer, and the sole duty to be as submissive to their pretended owners as though they were created to be 'yoked with the brute, and fettered to the soil.' For them there was no home, no parental or filial relationship, no freedom of locomotion, no right to think or speak, no scope for conscience or the fear of God, no development of those faculties and powers which take hold of immortal life, no moral culture, no educational improvement, no protection against even the most atrocious wrongs, no incentive to industry but the lash, no power of accumulation, no thrift, no prompting to invention or enterprise, no art, no science, no philosophy, no literature, no aspiration to be good or great. Their emancipation, therefore, meets them just where Slavery leaves them—in need of every thing that pertains to their physical, intellectual, and moral condition. Here, then, is opened an immense field for philanthropic and Missionary effort; and it is gratifying to perceive a disposition widely felt to cultivate it, both by individuals and associations. No doubt the charities of the benevolent, in this direction, will be sometimes abused, through the selfishness or incompetency of some who enter this field; hence, too much caution cannot be exercised by those who are asked to contribute for so laudable an object. As a friend remarks: "The term *freedman* is now a word to conjure with, and therefore is there a special liability to be imposed upon by self-seeking adventurers or proselyting sectarists. As far as our knowledge extends, we regard the various freedmen's associations now in operation as trustworthy mediums, and deserving of general encouragement in proportion to the catholic spirit in which they are organised, without reference to theological differences of opinion. We trust they will be vigilant and discriminating in the employment of teachers and agents, and endeavour to penetrate into the motives of those who apply for such situations; for if the animating spirit be simply to find employment, or to get pecuniary gain, the moral and educational experiment will be neither successful nor creditable.

"In this connection it is due to the *American (Boston) Tract Society* to say that it is largely concentrating its means and efforts for the elevation of the liberated bondmen, and adapting its publications to their understanding and needs with excellent judgment, and on a liberal scale. In addition to its admirable rudimental sheet for their instruction, of which an immense edition is issued monthly, and distributed wherever a favourable opening presents, it has just published *The Freedman's Primer, or First Reader*, to be followed soon by one for more advanced scholars; and also the first volume of 'The Freedman's Library,' entitled *John Freeman and his Family*, by Mrs. H. E. Brown, a very interesting story, that will convey pleasure and instruction to many a sable reader, who, having had his yoke broken, is eagerly acquiring knowledge, and rapidly advancing in mental improvement. All these publications are printed in a handsome style, on large or very legible type, and accom-

panied by well-executed pictorial illustrations, calculated to arrest attention as well as to please and cultivate the taste.

LETTER FROM SOJOURNER TRUTH.

THE following, from the remarkable coloured woman, Sojourner Truth, will be read with interest :

"Orange, N. Y., Dec. 10, 1864.

"I send you herewith a letter recently received from Sojourner Truth, giving an account of her interview with President Lincoln, in which, no doubt, many of her friends will be interested. Accompanying her letter was a very interesting one from Capt. Geo. B. Carse, commanding Dept. V.R.C., Govnt. Farms, Virginia, in which he speaks of the great service rendered to the freedmen and their families by Sojourner, who visits them in their cabins, takes her knitting, and instructs them how to sew and knit, make bread, and perform all the various household duties of which those who have been field hands are very ignorant. I will cheerfully take charge and forward any thing Sojourner's friends may wish to send her.

"ROWLAND JOHNSON.

"Freedman's Village, Va.,
Nov. 17, 1864.

"DEAR FRIEND,—I am at Freedman's village. After my visit to the President, I went to Mrs. Swisshelm's, and remained there three weeks, and held two meetings in Washington, in Mr. Garnet's Presbyterian church, for the benefit of the *Coloured Soldiers' Aid Society*, both of which were largely attended. I then spent a week on Mason's Island with the freedmen there; held several meetings, and was present at the celebration of the emancipation of the slaves in Maryland, and spoke upon that occasion.

"It was about eight o'clock in the morning when I called upon the President, in company with Mrs. C. On entering his reception room, we found about a dozen persons waiting to see him; amongst them were two coloured women, some white women also. One of the gentlemen present knew me, and I was introduced to several others, and had a pleasant time while waiting, and enjoyed the conversation between the President and his auditors very much. He showed as much respect and kindness to the coloured persons present as to the whites. One case was a coloured woman who was sick, and likely to be turned out of her house, on account of her inability to pay her rent. The President listened to her with much attention, and replied with kindness and tenderness that he had given so much, he could give no more, but told her where she could get the needed aid, and asked Mrs. C. to direct and assist her, which she did.

"He was seated at his desk. Mrs. C. and myself walked up to him. Mrs. C. said to him, 'This is Sojourner Truth, who has come all the way from Michigan to see you.' He then arose, gave me his hand, and said, 'I am glad to see you.' I said to him, 'Mr. President, when you

first took your seat, I feared you would be torn to pieces; for I likened you unto Daniel, who was thrown into the lions' den; for if the lions did not tear you to pieces, I knew it would be God that had saved you; and I said if He spared me, I would see you before the four years had expired. And He has done so, and I am now here to see you for myself.' He congratulated me on my having been spared. I then said, 'I appreciate you, for you are the best President who has ever taken his seat.' He replied thus: 'I expect you have reference to my having emancipated the slaves in my Proclamation; but,' said he, mentioning the names of several of his predecessors, and particularly Washington, 'they were just as good, and would have done just as I have, if the time had come. And if the people over the river,' pointing across the Potomac, 'had behaved themselves, I could not have done what I have.' I replied, 'I thank God you were the instrument selected by Him and the people to do these things.' I presented him with one of my shadows and songs, for which he thanked me, and said he would keep them as a remembrance. He then showed me the splendid Bible presented to him by the coloured people. You doubtless have seen a description of it. I have seen it for myself, and can say it is beautiful beyond description. After I looked it over, I said to him, 'This is beautiful; and to think that the coloured people have given this to the head of the Government, and to think that Government once sanctioned laws that would not permit its people to learn enough to be able to read that book! And for what? Let them answer who can.' I am proud to say that I never was treated with more kindness and cordiality than I was by that great and good man Abraham Lincoln, by the grace of God President of the United States for four years more. He took my little book, and with the same hand that signed the death-warrant of Slavery, he wrote as follows :

'For Aunt Sojourner Truth.'

'October 29, 1864.

'A. LINCOLN.'

"I then took my leave of him, and thanked God from the bottom of my heart that I always have advocated this cause, and done it openly and boldly; and now I shall feel more in duty bound to do so. May God assist me! I have obtained a little house here, through the kindness of the Captain of the Guard, and think I will remain, and do all I can in the way of instructing the people in habits of industry and economy. Many of them are entirely ignorant of housekeeping. Any favours in the way of nourishment, and some sheets and pillows, will be very acceptable, and may be forwarded to Washington, addressed to me, care of Captain George B. Carse, Freedman's village, Va. Give my love to all who inquire after me.

"Sammy and I are both well and happy, and feel that we are in good employment, and find plenty of friends.

"Your friend,

"SOJOURNER TRUTH."

Anti-Slavery Reporter.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1, 1865.

THE ANTI-SLAVERY REPORTER.

WE beg to call the attention of our friends in general, and of subscribers to the *Anti-Slavery Reporter* in particular, to the notice which has appeared in former Numbers, respecting the gratuitous issue, in future, of our periodical, to all Annual Subscribers to the Society's funds of Ten Shillings and upwards, from and after this present second of January. This resolution has been taken by the Committee, as a means of promoting the circulation of their record of the Society's operations, and of anti-slavery proceedings generally, at home and abroad. It is hoped that the new arrangement will be everywhere acceptable, and that efforts will be made by the friends of the cause, to extend its advantages into as many fresh quarters as possible. Subscribers to the Society's funds are respectfully urged to forward to the Editor the names and full addresses of persons likely to take an interest in anti-slavery matters. As the issue of the *Reporter* will, under these circumstances, entail an additional annual loss, our friends are earnestly solicited personally to exert themselves to help the Society's funds, by obtaining additional subscribers to the same. We also beg to intimate that the *Reporter* will hereafter be issued unstamped, except specially ordered otherwise.

Actual Subscribers to the *Reporter* only, and not also to the Society's funds, are respectfully informed that they will be supplied as usual, and that their Subscription is due, in advance, on the 1st of January every year.

All communications to be addressed to the Secretary of the *British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society*, No. 27 New Broad Street, E. C., London; and Post-office Orders may be made payable to him, at the Post-office, Moorgate Street, E. C.

HANDBOOK OF THE ABOLITION OF THE SLAVE-TRADE AND OF SLAVERY.

IN answer to numerous inquiries respecting the issue of the work above mentioned, the author begs respectfully to inform anti-slavery friends that a circular will shortly be sent out, with specimen pages of the book, and a subscription notice attached; and that, if the response for copies is sufficient to cover the risk of publication, it will be issued at once.

SLAVERY FINALLY ABOLISHED IN THE UNITED STATES.

By a majority of 112 to 67, the United States' House of Representatives passed, on the 31st of January ult., the amendment to the constitution, abolishing and for ever prohibiting Slavery in any of the States of the American Union. This important measure now awaits, to render it law, only the ratification, by their legislatures, of three-fourths of the States. The amendment passed the Senate on the 8th of April last, by a majority of 38 to 6, but on the 15th of June it was negatived in the House of Representatives, in consequence of the insufficiency of the vote, which was only 96 to 63. To the perseverance of Mr. Ashley of Ohio, the present result is chiefly attributable, for he is said to have laboured to obtain it with most praiseworthy persistence.

The joint resolution, embracing the amendment, is as follows:

"Be it resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, two-thirds of both Houses concurring, that the following articles be proposed to the Legislatures of the several States as an amendment to the constitution of the United States; when ratified by three-fourths of said legislatures, shall be valid to all intents and purposes as a part of the said Constitution, namely:

"Article 13—Section 1. Neither Slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime, whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.

"Section 2. Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."

The *National Anti-Slavery Standard* of the 4th of February gives the subjoined details of the vote, and of the manner of taking it.

"The hour appointed for the final struggle having arrived, the House first voted upon a motion to table the Amendment. Result—ayes 57, noes 111. The question of reconsideration was next decided in the affirmative—ayes 112, nays 57. Some of the Democratic members then tried to persuade Mr. Ashley to consent to a postponement of the main question, but he insisted on taking the vote at once, and it was taken with the following result:

YEAS 119 (Democrats 16, in *Italic*.)

Messrs. Alison, Iowa.
Ames, Mass.
Anderson, Ky.
Arnold, Illinois.
Ashley, Ohio.
Bailey, Pennsylvania.
Baldwin, Michigan.
Baldwin, Massachusetts.
Baxter, Vermont.
Beaman, Michigan.
Blane, Maine.
Blair, West Virginia.
Blow, Missouri.
Boutwell, Mass.
Boyd, Missouri.
Brandagee, Conn.
Broomall, Pennsylvania.
Brown, West Virginia.
Ambrose, W. Clark, New York.
Freeman, Clark, New York.
Cobb, Wisconsin.
Coffroth, Pennsylvania.
Colfax, Indiana.
Cole, California.
Cresswell, Maryland.
Davis, Indiana.
Davis, New York.
Dawes, Massachusetts.
Deming, Connecticut.
Dixon, Rhode Island.
Donnelly, Minnesota.
Briggs, Michigan.
Dumont, Indiana.
Eckley, Ohio.
Eliot, Massachusetts.
English, Connecticut.
Farnsworth, Illinois.
Frank, New York.
Ganson, New York.
Garfield, Ohio.

Gooch, Massachusetts.
Grinnell, Iowa.
Griswold, New York.
Hale, Pennsylvania.
Herrick, New York.
Higby, California.
Hooper, Massachusetts.
Hotchkiss, New York.
Hubbard, Iowa.
Hubbard, Connecticut.
Hubbard, New York.
Hutchins, Ohio.
Ingersoll, Illinois.
Jenckes, Rhode Island.
Julian, Indiana.
Kasson, Iowa.
Kelley, Pennsylvania.
Kellogg, Michigan.
Kellogg, New York.
King, Missouri.
Knox, Missouri.
Littlejohn, New York.
Loan, Missouri.
Longyear, Michigan.
Marvin, New York.
McAllister, Pennsylvania.
McBride, Oregon.
McClurg, Missouri.
McIndoe, Wisconsin.
Miller, New York.
Morehead, Pennsylvania.
Morrill, Vermont.
Morris, New York.
A. Myers, Pennsylvania.
L. Myers, Pennsylvania.
Nelson, New York.
Norton, Illinois.
Odell, New York.
O'Neill, Pennsylvania.
Orth, Indiana.

Patterson, New York.
Perham, Maine.
Pike, Maine.
Pomeroy, New York.
Price, Iowa.
Radford, New York.
Randall, Kentucky.
Rice, Massachusetts.
Rice, Maine.
Rollins, New Hampshire.
Rollins, Missouri.
Schenck, Ohio.
Schofield, Pennsylvania.
Shannon, California.
Sloan, Wisconsin.
Smith, Kentucky.
Smithers, Delaware.
Spalding, Ohio.
Starr, New Jersey.
Steele, New York.
Stearns, Pennsylvania.
Thayer, Pennsylvania.
Thomas, Maryland.
Tracy, Pennsylvania.
Upson, Michigan.
Van Valkenburg, New York.
Washburne, Illinois.
Washburne, Massachusetts.
Webster, Maryland.
Whaley, West Virginia.
Wheeler, Wisconsin.
Williams, Pennsylvania.
Wilder, Kansas.
Wilson, Iowa.
Windham, Minnesota.
Woodbridge, Vermont.
Worthington, Nevada.
Yeaman, Kentucky.

NAYS 56—ALL DEMOCRATS.

J. C. Allen, Illinois.
W. J. Allen, Illinois.
Ancona, Pennsylvania.
Bliss, Ohio.
Brooks, New York.
Brown, Wisconsin.
Chanler, New York.
Clay, Kentucky.
Cox, Ohio.
Cravens, Indiana.
Dawson, Pennsylvania.
Denison, Pennsylvania.
Eden, Illinois.
Edgerton, Indiana.
Eldridge, Wisconsin.
Finck, Ohio.
Grider, Kentucky.
Hale, Missouri.
Harding, Kentucky.

Harrington, Indiana.
Harris, Maryland.
Harris, Illinois.
Holman, Indiana.
Johnson, Pennsylvania.
Johnson, Ohio.
Kalbfleisch, New York.
Kernan, New York.
Knapp, Illinois.
Law, Indiana.
Long, Ohio.
Mallory, Kentucky.
Miller, Pennsylvania.
Morris, Ohio.
Morrison, Illinois.
Noble, Ohio.
O'Neil, Ohio.
Pendleton, Ohio.
Perry, New Jersey.

Pruyn, New York.
Randall, Pennsylvania.
Robinson, Illinois.
Ross, Illinois.
Scott, Missouri.
Steele, New Jersey.
Stiles, Pennsylvania.
Strouse, Pennsylvania.
Stuart, Illinois.
Sweat, Maine.
Townsend, New York.
Wadsworth, Kentucky.
Ward, New York.
White, J. W., Ohio.
White, C. A., Ohio.
Winfield, New York.
Ben. Wood, New York.
F. Wood, New York.

ABSENT OR NOT VOTING 8—ALL DEMOCRATS.

Lazear, Penn.
Leblonde, Ohio.
Marcy, New Hampshire.

McDowell, Indiana.
McKinney, Ohio.
Middleton, New Jersey.

Rogers, New Jersey.
Voorhees, Indiana.

The scene in the House is described as being most exciting. The intensest anxiety was manifested by the throngs which had gained access to it, as soon as it

became known that the vote upon the amendment was to be taken. Even the reporters' galleries were taken possession of by ladies; and when, amidst breathless silence, the result was announced, deafening cheers rent the hall, which no attempt was made to suppress, and hats, handkerchiefs, canes, papers and flags were waved "until the air was darkened." A scene of such enthusiasm was never witnessed in the House before. At Washington the event was celebrated by a salute of 100 guns.

The amendment will now be referred to the legislatures of the several States for their action thereupon. The number composing the Union, including those in rebellion, is 36. Three-fourths of these would be 27, and it is said that the concurrence of 22 may be considered as certain. These are :

Maine.	Maryland.	Minnesota.
New Hampshire.	Ohio.	Missouri.
Vermont.	Indiana.	Kansas.
Massachusetts.	Illinois.	Nevada.
Connecticut.	Michigan.	Oregon.
Rhode Island.	Iowa.	California.
New York.	Wisconsin.	West Virginia.
Pennsylvania.		

The *Standard* considered New Jersey doubtful, but should it accept the amendment, there will be 23 States. Tennessee, Arkansas, Louisiana and Virginia were also regarded as certain, bringing up the number to the requisite 27. Delaware cannot, it is said, be carried at present, and there is even a doubt respecting the status of the three last-mentioned States, though it is supposed they will be restored to the Union upon some terms, when their concurrence may be depended upon.

The same journal adds that it is also a question whether the amendment would not become a part of the constitution by the ratification of the legislatures of three-fourths of the States not in rebellion. Should this point be settled affirmatively, by competent authority, the work of ratification would be speedy and certain; but if the States in rebellion have to be counted as appertaining, as they do, to the Union, some months may elapse ere the final solution is arrived at.

Up to the 8th ult. the Legislatures of Maryland, Illinois, West Virginia, Michigan, Rhode Island, New York, Pennsylvania and Massachusetts, Missouri and Maine, had accepted the amendment.* Re-

* Fifteen States had ratified the amendment, up to latest advices. See our summary for the names. [Ed. A. S. R.]

specting the States in rebellion, the *Friends' Review* of the 11th ult. has the subjoined observations :

"The question as to the present status of the States in rebellion, and the mode by which they may be restored into the Union, is receiving the earnest and anxious consideration of Congress, and upon the result depends the decision as to the number of States required for the ratification of the proposed amendment.

"Each 'State' may be described as a certain extent of territory, with an aggregation of people and a political organization formed under the authority and sanction of the Federal Government, and recognised by it. Neither the land nor the people, without the political organization, can be regarded as a State. Hence, although the territory occupied by the rebels is still in the Union, and under the jurisdiction of the United States, the States within that territory, having no political organizations now recognised by the Federal Government, cannot be regarded as States of the Union. And as no legitimate authority exists within their limits beside that of the United States, the re-establishment of their political organization as States of the Union can properly be effected only under some action of the President or Congress. Until this action takes place, political functions cannot be resumed by the rebellious States as members of the Union. There are, therefore, no legislatures in those States to which the article in the joint resolution, passed by Congress, can be proposed for ratification or rejection; from which it would seem that the ratification of the amendment by three-fourths of the legislatures of the States not in rebellion is all that is at present necessary to make it a part of the Federal constitution. If the Government should come to this conclusion, there will probably be little delay in abolishing Slavery throughout the United States, so far as it can be effected by legislation.

"Since the above was written, we find that Senator Sumner has introduced into the Senate a series of resolutions, declaring the rule in ascertaining the three-fourths of the several States required in the ratification of a constitutional amendment, under the present condition of the country, with certain States in arms against the National Government. He takes the ground which we have endeavoured to set forth—that only those States now represented in Congress shall be taken into the estimate; and one of the resolutions declares that 'any other rule, requiring the participation of the rebel States, while illogical and unreasonable, is dangerous in its consequences,

inasmuch as all recent Presidential proclamations, including that of emancipation; also all recent Acts of Congress, including those creating the national debt, and establishing a national currency; and also all recent treaties, including the treaty with Great Britain for the extinction of the slave-trade, have been made, enacted, or ratified respectively, without any participation of the rebel States.'

"The resolutions were ordered to be printed, and we trust they will receive the favourable consideration of Congress."

We heartily rejoice over this grand result of the present crisis. The dreadful calamity of civil war has been, in the hands of Providence, the direct means of bringing the nation to a consciousness of the evils of the institution which has for so many years hung about its neck like a millstone, and we are sanguine of the speedy ratification, by the requisite number of States, of the important measure which has been at length accepted by Congress. So true is it, that ideas founded on truth and justice will ever in the end prevail! To the Father of all mankind, to the Infinite Ruler, be the praise for this glorious consummation! Truly out of another "land of Egypt," and of another "house of bondage" has He brought an oppressed people. Praised be his name!

BRITISH SETTLEMENTS IN WEST AFRICA.

MR. ADDERLEY has obtained a Parliamentary Committee of Inquiry into the present state of the British settlements on the West coast of Africa. We rejoice that the Minister for the Colonies has acceded to the Right Honourable Member's motion, and anticipate much useful information will be obtained in the course of the investigation. From the prominence which was given, in the course of the discussion, to the expense attendant upon the efforts of Great Britain to suppress the slave-trade—the naval squadron alone being estimated to cost the country one million pounds annually—and from the fact that the retention of our West-African settlements was dwelt upon as having been considered necessary to our slave-trade suppression policy, it would appear as though it were intended that the inquiry should be chiefly directed to ascertain how far these establishments have tended to accomplish their objects.

It is notorious, that for many years past, shameful misgovernment has been the rule wherever British authority has been extended on the West-African coast. Each settlement has its peculiar evils of this

nature. In fact, it is less a system of government than a capricious exercise of individual, arbitrary will. As a rule, men ill-qualified to govern are sent out to occupy posts, the functions of which ought to be discharged with unswerving fidelity to right principles; while the functionaries themselves ought to observe a line of conduct which should serve as an example to the people they are appointed to rule over. We do not hesitate to affirm, however, that injustice, oppression, persecution, and laxity of morals, will be found more characteristic of British rule on the coast, than their opposites. The nominees of the Crown in those parts, invested with temporary and almost irresponsible authority, set at defiance the complaints alike of natives, half-castes, and Europeans, and do not hesitate to involve the nation in petty wars, which cause the loss of hundreds of valuable lives, which entail an enormous expenditure, and which result neither in honour nor in permanent advantage to the mother country. Appeal to the superior authority at home is found to be practically worse than useless, for the loss of time, pains, and money, is certain, and redress dubious; in many cases the delays incidental to inquiry being sufficient of themselves to defeat justice. Numerous individual cases of oppression and injustice have been brought under our notice, and that of a kindred Society, but in no one instance have the wronged individuals been righted, or have the official delinquents been relieved of their office. It is known that, as a rule, the Government upholds its officers, right or wrong, and, as a consequence, the people of the settlements are discontented and unhappy. Under such circumstances, retrogression, not advancement, is natural; and if progress has been made, it is in spite, rather than in consequence, of British rule.

We believe it was the late Sir Thomas Fowell Buxton who originated the idea of consular establishments on the West coast, and commercial treaties with the native potentates, with a view to promote the development of legitimate trade, and thereby the suppression of the slave-traffic. Contrary to the policy of some of his successors, he did not advocate this course as an only means of extinguishing slave-trade, but as a means ancillary to other measures. He looked with favour upon a cruiser squadron, in the light of an armed police, bound not only to protect the coast trade, but to pursue, fight, and capture slavers.

Had he been spared to benefit the world by his philanthropy, experience would have demonstrated to him, as it has to others, that the legitimate trade of the coast no

more needs protection, at the cost of a million a-year, than does our trade to and from any part of the world; and he would doubtless have come to the conclusion, that no vigilance of the cruiser squadron would stop the supply of slaves so long as the demand for them continues. The system which this eminent philanthropist advocated materially differs, however, from the one which has been engrafted upon it. British consular establishments pre-suppose their being fixed in foreign countries, and are an anomaly in any other; at any rate, they are the medium of commercial intercourse between two independent nations; and to appoint a consul to reside at a foreign station, without first obtaining the sanction of the Government of the country, would be regarded by any European Power as a gross infringement of its sovereign rights. Nevertheless, some two years ago an attempt was made to thrust a British Vice-Consul on the Abbeokutans, which resulted in insult to a highly-meritorious officer, and in the total failure of that attempt. Equally impolitic, in every sense, was the annexation of Lagos, and has been the acquisition of every foot of territory on the West coast actually possessed by the British Crown; yet there are advocates of further extensions of territory.

We deny that African commerce and civilization have been materially advanced in West Africa in consequence of British protection. Whatever good has been effected in this direction is the direct result of Missionary effort, and of the partial cessation of the slave-trade; and this partial cessation has arisen from the diminished demand for slaves since the closing of the Brazilian market. It is not true that British protection has created and fostered legitimate trade, and that the latter has, therefore, superseded the traffic in men; but the traffic in men having been extinguished from certain parts of the coast, in consequence of a diminished demand, legitimate trade has naturally sprung up in its place.

The old anti-slavery party has ever been opposed to the cruiser system as a suppressive measure, not only because it is founded on a wrong principle, but because the fundamental axiom of that party is, "that so long as Slavery exists, the slave-trade will also continue." We believe that if attention be directed to this point, Mr. Adderley's Committee of inquiry will elicit abundant proof confirmatory of our assertion. So long as the demand for slaves existed in Brazil the supply did not cease, and was not even much checked by the squadron. Increased vigilance on its part was met and counteracted by additional sharpness and greater astuteness on that of

the slave-traders; in proof of which the slave-trade records shew that in 1847, when the squadron was alleged to be in a high state of efficiency, the importation into Brazil reached 70,000, to supply which number, 140,000 more, or, in all, 210,000 negroes were exported from the coast. It will be found, that only since the Brazilian demand has ceased has legitimate trade been developed.

So with regard to the Cuban trade. The demand for Bozals continues, and the supply does not cease. Governmental vigilance is no match for the increased craftiness and enterprise of the slave-traders. Clyde-built steam clippers, fitted up for capacity and speed, and owned by companies of large resources, dare the tubs of the cruiser squadron to attempt pursuit; and the result is, an importation into Cuba of some 30,000 negroes every year, equivalent to 90,000 exported from the coast. We confidently assert there is no remedy for this lamentable state of things but the closing of the Cuban market; and that market will not be closed until pressure is brought to bear upon Spain of a kind she will be unable to resist. We do not hint at nor advocate, a recourse to warlike measures. Diplomacy has not exhausted its resources, and we are glad to see our suggestion taken up for a united remonstrance on the part of Great Britain and France and, we would add, the United States and Portugal, to be addressed to the Spanish Government, with a view to obtain a final solution of this important question.

SPAIN, AND THE ABOLITION OF SLAVERY.

In another column will be found a brief report of a conversation in the Senate of the Spanish Cortes, on the 10th and the 13th ult., on the subject of the abolition of Slavery and the slave-trade in the island of Cuba. For many years a party has existed in that island, having its supporters in Madrid, whose object is to obtain colonial reform. Cuba is governed arbitrarily. Neither freedom of speech, of action, nor indeed of any kind, exists there. A Cuban cannot exercise his own occupation without permission, has no political rights whatever, and is, to every intent and to all purposes, a slave, save in so far as he cannot be deprived of his own right to himself. The Captain-General is despotic, and owes account of his doings to no one. His post is one of Crown favour, which he is expected to turn to account for his own benefit, during his term of office. The results of such a form of Government, and its effect upon the people, may be imagined. Hence disaffection and chronic opposition to the

rule of the mother-country; and hence the secret countenance which was given to enterprises like the one headed by General Lopez, and afterwards taken up by General Quitman, and which, though they resulted unfortunately, none the less betrayed the feelings of a certain class of Cubans. Annexation to the United States, or independence, became the watch-words of this party, finding it impossible to obtain colonial reform, and representation in the Cortes. Revolutionary in its purposes, it was of course frowned upon by the Government at Madrid, and persecuted by the local authority. The leaders were exiled, or thrust into prison, and every attempt made to crush it out. But ideas have a feline tenacity of existence, and obloquy and persecution failed to extinguish the principles of the party. It was only natural that those who sought political freedom for themselves should regard slavery with disfavour, and the slave-trade with abhorrence. Hence in their ranks were to be found the most strenuous opponents of both these crimes. Notwithstanding differences of views as to the best mode of abolishing Slavery, none existed with respect to the extinction of the slave-trade. Now, colonial reform, and the extension to Cuba of the laws which govern Spain, involve emancipation and the suppression of the African slave-traffic, because the Spanish laws do not recognise slave-property. These colonial reformers were therefore regarded and treated as revolutionists, and although the progress of liberal ideas has removed a degree of reproach from them, the Government of the day shrinks from contact with them, and public men, favourable to emancipation, also decline open political association with them, in connection with this question, for fear of entire identification with their views. The cause of emancipation is therefore up-hill work in Spain, notwithstanding the large amount of sympathy it commands in certain quarters; and it is by this light we should read the brief discussion in the Cortes, to which we have already referred.

We believe the time has come when events on the neighbouring continent have directed the attention of the Cubans and of the Spanish Government to the necessity of seriously considering the question of the abolition of Slavery and of the slave-trade. The stage of indifference has been passed, and the tendency of the statesmen and of the politicians of the day is to consider what is to be done. We are encouraged, to a certain extent, by the discussion which has taken place between the Spanish Minister of Marine and Senor Herrera, because we see two men, belonging to different parties, of a common view on a ques-

tion which will have to be solved ere long. On the other hand, it is mortifying to note how both evade the real point at issue, respecting the abolition of the slave-trade, in ignoring the existence of international treaty obligations, and consequently the pledges Spain is under to fulfil them. It is also curious to observe how the worn-out sophistries and allegations against emancipation are reproduced, as though the world had not progressed since the century commenced; or as though, since the last quarter of it, intelligence in Spain had remained at a standstill, and her public men had been excluded from all sources of information on this subject. But notwithstanding these drawbacks to enthusiasm on the subject of the progress of ideas, with especial reference to Spain, we must bear in mind that, in our own country, abolitionism had every kind of opposition to encounter, and only succeeded in carrying public opinion by the power of a well-organized agitation, aided by a free press, and the liberty of speech. These elements of success are wanting in Spain; hence the work to be accomplished is far more difficult, and it requires, on the part of her public men, who are disposed to agitate this question, a moral courage and a determination no merely political ambition can engender, and which a remote prospect of success can scarcely be expected to stimulate into action. We consider there is much promise in the present aspect of affairs, and are disposed to accept as of good augury the discussion upon which we are commenting, as indicating an advance to that degree in the treatment of an important public question, when, although men's minds are not made up to define a course, there is a tacit assent to the general proposition, that the time has come for something to be done.

A PLEA FOR THE AMERICAN FREEDMEN.

DURING the progress of the fearful contest now waging in America, it is estimated that a million and a half of slaves have been freed. Of these, hundreds of thousands have flocked to the lines of the Federal army, and hundreds of thousands are escaping still. They are described as a "stripped and perishing multitude, torn to pieces by the giant monsters of war and Slavery." "They escape from desolated plantations, they traverse territory gleaned and impoverished by passing and repassing armies. They fly with little clothing or bedding. They find no homes ready for them; no food, or fire, or shelter; they are weary, and hungry, and sick."

The manner of arrival at one of the settlements is thus described by one of the devoted lady superintendents: "In a severe snow storm 1000 arrived, with only the poor clothes on their backs: their utter poverty is terrible. Nine hundred came yesterday. Their masters had not given them clothes, some for a year, others for two years. All beg for Bibles." Mr. N. M. Mann, of the Sanitary Commission, thus describes another scene: "The stream of negroes which followed and gathered in the wake of Sherman's army, at last wound its way into Vicksburgh with 4500 souls. Following through a country twice ravaged by a devouring host, they had literally nothing for subsistence but the remnants left them by our troops. Slowly and sadly they dragged along through our streets. Waggons were loaded with children, whose weary, despairing looks will haunt me, I believe, as long as I live. A mother or two in each, trying to soothe the little ones crying for hunger and fatigue, all clothed in the dirt-coloured home spun they always wear, worn to rags and tatters, in many cases leaving them almost naked." Similar details might be indefinitely multiplied, and the numbers are such in the camps, that many, without beds or bedding, sleep on the bare ground. It will be no matter of surprise, therefore, that from these sufferings and the great prevalence of small-pox, and other diseases amongst them, thousands have sickened, and thousands have died.

To meet the pressing exigencies of the case, the American Government has not been inactive. A commission has been formed specially for the care of the coloured refugees; and rations and partial shelter have been supplied to the amount of eight or ten million dollars (about 2,000,000*l.*).

The sufferers have been gathered into camps or settlements, and to supply these with the care they require, private Christian benevolence at the North has contributed more than six hundred thousand dollars (150,000*l.*). But this very inadequately represents the benevolence of the North. Hundreds of noble men and women have left their homes to tend and teach these sufferers from Slavery, to cast in their lot with them, and to train them for citizenship in the world. Freedmen's-Aid Associations have been formed in the principal cities of the North to superintend this work, and to collect the necessary means. It is in aid of these organizations and their deeply important work that British Christians are now entreated freely to contribute.

The need is great, but we believe that it is only temporary as regards individual cases. Those that have been assisted for a

time become very soon self-supporting, and make wonderful progress in every respect. Most of the able-bodied men are drafted into the army or into government employment; the women and children, the aged and the infirm, who form the largest proportion of the whole, are left in the camps or settlements. Notwithstanding their disadvantages, the reports of their conduct are very satisfactory. For example, within and around the city of Memphis there are 10,000 who are supporting themselves." Another witness, referring to a small colony on the island of Helena, says: "This colony was begun about the 1st of 12th month (December) last, in the thick woods, with no houses, no utensils for labour, and many of them with but little clothing or food. Tents were provided until houses could be built, rations for twenty days, and axes for wood-chopping. They immediately set about their various duties, and on the 23rd of 1st month (January) were ready to pay for the provisions and axes.

"When I left the island, about the first of last month, they had planted seventy acres in cotton, and cleared the ground in camp, planted gardens, and were nearly all living in houses. The inhabitants number 30 men, 80 women, and 140 children. A number of the latter are orphans, and are of course an expense to the colony. As a colony, they have been in that time self-supporting, with a surplus in their hands of several hundred dollars, and at the same time sustaining many infirm people."

And now, in this transition state of suffering, what can we do? what ought we to do? At the time of the Irish famine, in the years 1846 to 1848, the Americans sent to the care of the Committee of the Society of Friends alone money and produce to the amount of 150,000*l.*; and more recently, on the occasion of the Lancashire distress, America again sent forth her ships laden with supplies for the relief of the sufferers. Surely this liberality calls for imitation and a generous return. The call has not been entirely neglected. A Freedman's-Aid Society has been formed in London, under the presidency of Sir T. F. Buxton. The Society of Friends have forwarded 6000*l.*; the Birmingham Association have raised 1500*l.*; the Liverpool Association, 1000*l.*; Dublin about 600*l.*; Edinburgh, Newcastle, Manchester, and other places, have also contributed; but the whole amount is small in proportion to the American liberality towards our poor, and very small in proportion to the great and ever-increasing need of the crowds of unoffending sufferers in America. We would therefore appeal to the Christians of Scotland to aid in this truly Christian work. To use the words of the American Missionary Asso-

ciation: "Friends of the Coloured Race,—You have prayed, toiled, and suffered for the liberation of the slave. You have believed that no evil would follow such an event. God is bringing that consummation to pass so rapidly, and in so unexpected a manner, that fearful suffering must ensue unless a liberal charity shall stretch forth its hand. Shall we fail to respond to the call which God's providence makes in answer to our prayers? Shall we neglect the coloured man when he is threatened with dreadful bodily suffering? Shall we suffer him to die for want of the necessities of life, while we hold out to him only the dazzling, but mocking name of freedom?"

We append a list of the Committee and of the Officers of the

FREEDMEN'S-AID SOCIETY.

Sir Thomas Fowell Buxton, Bart., *President*.*

Samuel Gurney, Esq., M.P., *Treasurer*.*

William Allen, Esq., *Sub-Treasurer*.*

Frederick Tomkins, Esq., M.A., D.C.L.; Rev. Samuel Garratt, B.A.; Rev. John Curwen; F. W. Chesson, Esq., *Honorary Secretaries*.

Messrs. Barclay, Bevan, Tritton, and Co., Lombard Street, E.C., *Bankers*.*

Committee.

Charles Buxton, Esq., M.P.; W. E. Foster, Esq., M.P.; Henry Pease, Esq., M.P.; John Bright, Esq., M.P.; Hon. and Rev. Baptist W. Noel; Rev. W. Brock, D.D.; Dr. Hodgkin; Rev. Dr. Worthington, F.R.G.S.; Rev. J. W. Massie, D.D., LL.D.; Rev. J. C. Galloway, M.A.; Rev. W. Tyler; Rev. Newman Hall, LL.B.; Rev. R. H. L. Wiseman; J. B. Braithwaite, Esq.; Robert Alsop, Esq.; Thomas Norcon, Esq.; Richard Smith, Esq.; Thomas Hughes, Esq., B.A.; Andrew Johnston, Esq.; J. M. Ludlow, Esq.; J. C. B. Potter, Esq.; W. J. Probyn, Esq.; Mr. Serjeant Parry; Gerard Ralston, Esq.; William W. Wood, Esq.; Stafford Allen, Esq.; William Binns Smith, Esq.; Benjamin Scott, Esq., Chamberlain; Rev. John Shedlock, M.A.; John H. Estcourt, Esq., Manchester; T. B. Potter, Esq., Manchester; William Willis, Esq., LL.B.; Francis Taylor, Esq.; Edmund Beales, Esq., M.A.; H. D. Jencken, Esq.; and Thomas C. Kyle, Esq., Wigan.

THE SPANISH CORTES.

THE ABOLITION OF SLAVERY AND THE SLAVE-TRADE.

In the Senate, or Upper House of the Spanish Cortes, an interesting episode has recently occurred. On the occasion of the adjourned debate upon the Address from the Crown, Senator Posada Herrera made the following remarks, adverting to the necessity of colonial reform in the Spanish Antilles:

* To whom Subscriptions may be addressed.

"I am aware that the affairs of these colonies demand serious consideration. Reflect, gentlemen, we have the question of Slavery to deal with, and upon what will happen when there shall be no slaves in the world but our's in Cuba. Look at this matter, and say whether we must not take a prompt though well-considered resolution respecting it. I do not know how the slave-trade is to be extinguished; whether to treat it as piracy, or to stop it by an annual census of the negro population of the island, which would arrest the abuses every day carried on there. But even were this an accomplished fact; even were there now no longer any slave-trade, it would be necessary to project a plan based upon an indemnity to the inhabitants, to compensate them for the loss incidental to a transition from one system to another. Reflect, gentlemen, upon the serious commercial question involved, and which is being mooted from the Mediterranean to the Pacific, and adopt promptly some resolution, lest it become too late to do it at all."

A few days afterwards, the Minister of Marine took up this subject, and, in his answer, spoke to the point as follows:

"With respect to the question of Slavery, the Honourable Senator Posada says that in a short time we shall be the only nation possessing colonies with slaves, and that we ought to forestall the danger of this situation. I, too, am of the opinion that, no great while hence, very few States will exist with Slavery preserved in them, but should we therefore at once decree emancipation? Far from me the idea of declaring myself a defender of Slavery. The work of emancipation is the work of Christianity, nor can I deny that it is part and parcel of evangelic doctrine. Yet when Christianity was enunciated, the greater portion of mankind were slaves. Whither penetrates first the preaching of the Saviour? Into this mass of slaves; nevertheless history does not furnish a single example of an insurrection of slaves. Tertullian said: 'Our's the legions; our's the people;' *sola vobis relinquitur templum*. Yet the Christians, though thus held, did not rise in insurrection.

"We all know that the negroes who emigrate into our island find a refuge in Haiti, notwithstanding the Government prohibition; hence, the new negroes who come from Africa are masters of the race. The majority are idolaters, and some are even cannibals.

"It will be asked, what does Government think on these matters? My reply is, it thinks the same as the Government of which Senator Posada Herrera was a member, and for the reason that it believes the question remains at the same point as when Senor Herrera was in power. It is clear the question must be considered, but it must be done deliberately and with a due regard to existing interests.

"The honourable Senator has also questioned Government concerning the slave-trade. It is evident, Senores, that an end must be put to this iniquitous traffic. But by what means? Senor Herrera has exhibited indecision in indicating any. I may tell him and Congress, that I can never consent to its being regarded as

piracy, so that any English captain might seize and convey aboard his ship any Spaniard, for a thing which in other countries does not constitute a crime."

SEÑOR HERRERA rose to reply, and said :

"I wish to rectify certain errors into which His Excellency the Minister of Marine has fallen respecting my views. His Excellency supposes I have suggested the abolition of Slavery in Cuba. How could I propose this? Do I not know that the thing is impossible, not only because we should, at one blow, destroy the agriculture of the country, but because we should be obliged to give so large a compensation, that, with the charges actually weighing down the Treasury, we could not sustain it?"

"I said it is necessary we should shew foreign nations that we desire to put an end to the slave-trade. To do this two ways present themselves; either to declare the traffic to be piracy, or to fall back upon an annual census of the population of the island of Cuba. I do not incline to the first means, though not for the reasons adduced by Señor Seijas, for every writer recognises two kinds of piracy, the real and the similar. To consider slave-trade as piracy were to assimilate it thereto, and hence we should be quite competent to deal with it and other questions specified by Señor Seijas.

"I repeat, I incline to the second means, wherefore His Excellency's strictures on my alleged views fall to the ground."

MR. LINCOLN AND THE INTERNATIONAL WORKING-MEN'S ASSOCIATION.

"To the Editor of the *'Anti-Slavery Reporter.'*

"Sir,—Some few weeks since a congratulatory address was sent from the Central Council of the above Association to Mr. Lincoln. The address was transmitted through the United States Legation, and the following reply has been received. Its publication will oblige,

"Respectfully yours,

"W. R. CREMER."

"Legation of the United States,
London, Jan. 31, 1865.

"Sir,—I am directed to inform you that the address of the Central Council of your Association, which was duly transmitted through this Legation to the President of the United States, has been received by him. So far as the sentiments expressed by it are personal, they are accepted by him with a sincere and anxious desire that he may be able to prove himself not unworthy of the confidence which has been recently extended to him by his fellow-citizens, and by so many of the friends of humanity and progress throughout the world. The Government of the United States has a clear consciousness that its policy neither is nor could be reactionary; but, at the same time, it adheres to the course which it adopted at the beginning, of abstaining everywhere from propagandism and unlawful inter-

vention. It strives to do equal and exact justice to all States and to all men, and it relies upon the beneficial results of that effort for support at home, and for respect and goodwill throughout the world. Nations do not exist for themselves alone, but to promote the welfare and happiness of mankind by benevolent intercourse and example. It is in this relation that the United States regard their cause in the present conflict with Slavery-maintaining insurgents as the cause of human nature; and they derive new encouragement to persevere from the testimony of the working men of Europe that the national attitude is favoured with their enlightened approval and earnest sympathies.

"I have the honour to be, Sir,

"Your obedient servant,

"CHARLES FRANCIS ADAMS.

"Mr. W. R. Cremer,

Hon. General Secretary of the
International Working Men's Association,
18, Greek Street, London, W."

DISTRESS IN JAMAICA.

THE following circular has been issued from the Baptist Mission House :—

"It is with the deepest concern and regret that the Committee of the Baptist Missionary Society ask your prompt and earnest consideration of the following facts with regard to the condition of the people of Jamaica. During the past two years the island has suffered most fearfully from drought, so that the provision grounds, on which a very large proportion of the peasantry depend for subsistence, have failed to afford them the means of support. The suffering thus occasioned has been severely aggravated by other causes. The American war has not only diminished the supply of breadstuffs, but made dearer what has come to hand. The increase in the cost of cotton goods, from the same cause, has been rendered more oppressive by the heavy customs' duty, which increases with the higher value of the articles, while at the same time the means of purchase have been largely diminished by the deficiency of employment on the estates and plantations. The want of employment, and the failure of the provision grounds, have therefore plunged large portions of the population into the depths of poverty. Their clothes have become ragged, and multitudes are almost naked. Petty thefts and the robbery of provision grounds, arising chiefly from absolute want, have more than doubled, rendering it necessary, in the judgment of the Governor of the island, to build new prisons and to inflict heavier punishments. All moral and spiritual improvement is brought to a stand. Schools are being broken up, and the schoolmasters dismissed. The attendance at public worship has greatly declined, owing to the want of decent clothing. The pastors of the churches and congregations, dependent on their people for support, necessarily participate in this suffering, and unless promptly assisted will be deeply involved in debt, or driven from their posts. Thus one calamity will be added to another. We submit, for your kind consideration, a series of extracts from letters received by the .

Committee, which cannot be read without great pain. The Committee will be glad to receive from you and your friends such contributions, either of clothing or money, that you may be able to bestow, and to relieve, to the best of their ability, this great distress. Whatever can be done should be done quickly, and no time will be lost in forwarding to their afflicted brethren whatever may be entrusted to their care.—We remain, on behalf of the Committee, yours very respectfully, S. MORTON PETO, Treasurer; FREDERICK TRESTRAIL, and EDWD. B. UNDERHILL, Secretaries.

“Bapt, Mission House, 33, Moorgate St.

“London, January 16.”

Extracts from a Speech of the Hon. A. Whitelock, in the House of Assembly.

“He (Mr. Whitelock) would make one assertion which could not be gainsaid—that taxation could not be extended; not one farthing more could be imposed on the people, who were suffering peculiar hardships on the increased value of wearing apparel, which was now taxed beyond all bounds. Actually they were paying 38 per cent. now, when 12½ per cent. was before considered an outrageous *ad valorem* duty. Cotton goods, including osnaburghs, and all the wearing apparel of the labouring classes, have increased 200 per cent. in value; what was fourpence per yard is now selling for a shilling per yard. Therefore the people are now paying three-halfpence of duty in every yard of cloth instead of a halfpenny, which has been justly described as a heavy impost. The consequence is, that a disgusting state of nudity exhibited itself in some parts of the country. Hardly a boy under ten years of age wore a frock, and adults, from the ragged state of their garments, exhibited those parts of the body where covering was especially wanted. The lower classes hitherto exhibited a proneness for dress, and we could not believe such a change would have come over them but for their destitution, arising out of a reduction of their wages at a time every article of apparel was tripled in value..... This year's decrease in imports foreshadow what was coming. Sugar was down again to £11 per hogshead. Coffee was falling. Pimento valueless. Logwood scarcely worth cutting. Moreover, a sad diminution effected in our chief staple exports from a deficiency of rain.”

From the Rev. J. Clark, Brown's Town.

“Crime has fearfully increased. The number of prisoners in the penitentiary and gaols is considerably more than double the average, and nearly all for one crime—larceny. Summonses for petty debts disclose an amount of pecuniary suffering which has never before been experienced, and applications for parochial and private relief prove that multitudes are suffering from want—little removed from starvation. Our congregations—I cannot speak of all parts of the island, but of this particular portion of it—which for nearly thirty years have been crowded, frequently to overflowing, are diminished one-half. Contributions are so reduced that we cannot pay our way; exclusions are so numerous as to cause the deepest anxiety; conversions, I fear, there are none. In consequence of the excessive droughts

and prevailing epidemic, spiritual distress and depression are aggravated by poverty and affliction.” “Our prospects for the young are gloomy in the extreme. Parents do not send them to school. Brother D. has had to give up his schools; my teacher at F—— has left and gone to —, as the people would not pay the small fees; and the Education Society has withdrawn the five pounds they had for two years or so, kindly given. All the reports I have from Kingston, Spanish Town, &c., are discouraging, and withdrawal from the means of grace seems to be universal over the island. What is to become of the people I know not. In fine weather and good roads we have 150 to 300 people instead of 1000. As to income, it has sorely fallen off.”

From the Rev. J. Clarke, Savanna la Mar.]

“We had, two weeks ago, eighteen cases on the calendar for our Circuit Court; ten and twelve are being sent to prison from our petty Courts almost weekly. Assaults, housebreaking, robbing of provision grounds, prevail as they never did before, and the Governor, in his opening address to the House of Assembly, recommends a return to flogging and the treadmill, to put a stop to the dire evils that afflict the land. I might give you sheets filled with quotations from letters from many of my brethren, to show you that the disease affects the whole island; but I suppose most who write you will tell their own tale of distress and painful apprehension.”

From the Rev. G. Milliner, of Bethsalem.

“You perhaps have been informed of the bad state of the island physically, morally, and religiously. I never witnessed such a depressed state of things. Were it not for the promises of God's word I should despair of seeing any improvement. But God can, and doubtless will, in His own good time, chase away the darkest cloud, and cause light to arise out of darkness.”

From the Rev. B. Millard, of St. Ann's Bay.]

“The general state of trade is very bad. The labour market is overstocked. Hundreds of people cannot get work, and the scarcity of ground provisions throughout the district, together with the want of rain (save the last week in May), renders the pressure the greater. The general cry is everywhere, ‘Money is scarce, clothing is enormously high, living is difficult.’ One consequence is, that our means to carry on the schools will lessen, and the difficulty of parents to clothe their families will be increased.”

The following extracts are from various private letters.

“Every thing is so very high that we are getting quite bare. I am greatly in need of a piece of calico, but cannot afford to buy it at 1s. 4d. a yard.....” “Every thing is so dull and discouraging now, and clothing is so dear, that parents say that they cannot afford to buy clothes for their children to come to school.” “There is much sickness all around us, and great distress. We had Mr. W. last Sunday. The congregation was good, but the collection very small. There are a few offerings for the Jubilee Fund, but they are small, and come in very slowly. Mr. B. preached the Sunday-school sermon on the 27th,

and made a collection, which amounted only to six dollars. In spiritual things we are far behind. The pressure of the times seems to operate sadly against our spiritual progress; still we are making efforts to strengthen the things that remain, lest they also die. In money matters we are also very low. It is with regret I have to say, that recently there has been a sad neglect of the house of God on the Sabbath-day in this district. In these parishes the people are willing to work, but there is no employment."

"Save a week in May, we have been suffering very much from dry weather. The drought has been very severe. Canes have been put in two or three times, and burnt up. Ground provisions have not grown, and accordingly we are not A 1 here. Crops, business, food, money, are at zero. It is hard work for some, and many of the people cannot get clothes for themselves and families."

"The distress of the people is great. Bread-kind scarce and dear. Employment difficult to obtain; the wages very small. The pimento crop is short, and will not, it is feared, pay for picking. Our congregation have been sadly reduced by the inability of large numbers of the people to provide clothing for themselves and children..... This will be the saddest year the Baptist Mission in Jamaica has ever known. Some brethren write to me about leaving; they cannot, they say, remain without being ruined and disgraced."

"Labour in Jamaica is fifty per cent. cheaper than it was ten years ago, and the necessities of life the people have to purchase are fifty per cent. dearer. In some parts of the country rain is much needed. Next year's sugar crops in this parish will be very small. Estates that make usually 250 or 300 hogsheads will not make more than 150 or 160, and others in proportion. We have had a few showers lately, which have been special blessings."

"One-half of our people cannot come to chapel for want of clothes, and a large portion cannot get food to eat. The little the drought has left the thieves are stealing. The applications for help are beyond one's powers to meet."

"We are passing through trying times. No work for the people, consequently no money, and no food."

"You will be sorry to hear that Brother — has been sick—quite a sudden attack. He is better again; but I have many fears of his health. His pecuniary anxieties are a great burden. His family expenses are so large, and his church income sadly falling off. I do not know how some of the brethren, with large families, are to get through their difficulties."

NEGRO HIRE AND NEGRO CONSCRIPTION IN THE SOUTH.

(From the *Richmond Enquirer*, Jan. 5.)

EITHER the owners or their hiring agents are acting very much against common sense in the exorbitant hires demanded for negroes this year. One thousand dollars and board and clothing are asked by some for negro men. Is not a system of labour that thus extorts upon the necessities of the hirer rather expensive? is a question that we have heard asked an alarming number of

times since the hires of negroes were doubled. These men surely forget the state of the country, and do not consider the fact that an earnest people are now deliberately weighing the bearings and influences of Negro Slavery upon the prospects of liberty and independence. They surely forget that these exorbitant hires are actual obstructions to production, and as such are really aid and comfort to the enemy, and consequently acts hostile to our cause. The effort of the country is to reduce the cost and increase the quantity of production, in order that the currency may be improved, and the cause sustained; but if the owners of negroes demand hires for their slaves which the farmer cannot pay, and continue to cultivate his farm without increasing the price of his crops, they are acting exactly as the enemy would have them act, and they are jeopardizing the institution of Slavery by making it an incubus upon production.

An objection was raised to the conscription of negroes for the army because it would diminish the labour of the country, increase the cost of production, and thus cause a depreciation of the currency; but negro men, at one thousand dollars per annum, with food and clothing, are too expensive for farming purposes; and therefore they may be conscripted without any damage to production. Thus the owners of slaves are removing the only good objection to General Lee's recommendation of employing the negroes as soldiers. We hope that Congress will now act promptly, and conscribe every negro for whom one thousand dollars is demanded; for the price makes him the very kind of negro wanted in the army—an A No. 1 negro soldier—and renders him too high and costly for the farm or any other kind of labour.

Would it not be well for persons hiring negroes to have a proviso in the bond that if the negro is conscripted the hire is to cease? Otherwise a man may have a bond of one thousand dollars to pay, and yet the negro be sent to the army.

ITEM.

A TART REPLY.—A pro-slavery clergyman was once travelling from New York to Boston. Being told that one of his fellow-passengers was Wendell Phillips, the noted Abolitionist, he determined to enter into conversation. After a few moments' argument, he said, "But if you are so opposed to Slavery, Mr. Phillips, why don't you go down South, and preach to the rebels?" "For the same reason, sir," was the reply, "that you do not go to hell to preach religion to sinners." The interlocuter sloped.

Reviews.

The Second Annual Report of the Ladies' London Emancipation Society. LEVEY and Co., Great New Street, Fetter Lane. A USEFUL report of a useful Society, which has published and distributed above 12,000

tracts on the subject of the American struggle, and handed 20l. to the *Freedmen's-Aid Society*.

The Humanity of the Confederates; or, the Massacre at Fort Pillow. EMILY FAITHFUL, Victoria Press, Prince's Street, Hanover Square.

TRACT No. 12, and last of the series, issued by the *London Ladies' Emancipation Society*. This is a reprint of the account of the massacre at Fort Pillow, perpetrated by the Confederates upon the Federal soldiers, black and white, and exhibits a phase of the horrors of war, as well as the ruthless character of the "Southern chivalry."

Illustrations of Southern Chivalry; as shewn by Photographic Portraits of their Prisoners of War. London: A. W. BENNETT, 5 Bishopsgate Street Without. Price, with Four Photographic Illustrations, 2s., post free.

A SMALL tract, containing the pith of the evidence, reported by the officers of the United-States' Sanitary Commissioners, upon the condition of the Federal prisoners of war, in Southern prisons, and to which editorial reference was made in a former Number of our journal. This brochure should be read by every friend of peace, and it will also contribute to exhibit "Southern Chivalry" in its true light. It would be a telling travelling companion to shew to Southern sympathizers.

The Drafted Friends in the American War.

One Penny each; or 4s. per 100; 4s. 8d. post free. A. W. BENNETT, 5 Bishopsgate Street, Without.

THIS is rather a peace than an anti-slavery tract, but its purpose is so excellent, and the example set by the four friends, Thomas Hindshaw, Jacob Hindshaw, Cyrus Barker, and Nathan Barker, two couple of worthy brothers, in resisting, for conscience' sake, the attempt to make them bear arms, that we feel it a duty to promote its circulation. Some admirable remarks upon Christian duty precede the narrative, which is a reprint from the "American Friend." The writer is the author of the work entitled "Quaker difficulties."

Slavery and the American War; a Speech by the Hon. C. SUMNER, at the Cooper Institute, New York, November 5, 1864. London: Bacon and Co., 48 Paternoster Row.

THIS oration is well worth perusal, as it

presents, in forcible style and the clearest manner, the true issue of the American rebellion. Mr. Sumner shews how utterly impossible is any compromise between the two sections now at war, and that permanent peace for the nation at large is not to be expected without the complete eradication of Slavery. The prospect of continued war is a melancholy one; but we believe Mr. Sumner expresses the sentiments of the majority of his fellow citizens in the North.

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